

PLANNING PERSPECTIVES



Focusing on Planning in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

January and February 2022

MCPC Work Program Enhanced for 2022

MCPC's 2022 Work Program

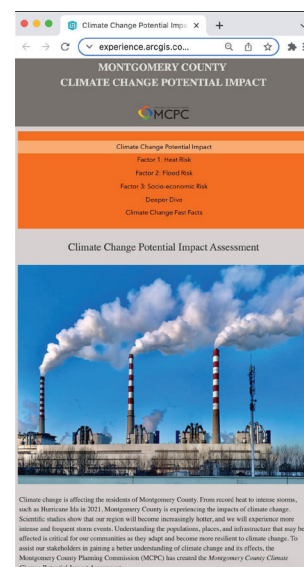
was restructured to create a more issues-focused work program that emphasizes agency output and collaboration among MCPC sections. It identifies our work and projects as they apply to a set of Focus Topics, fulfill one of our Signature Initiatives, or comprise one of our Core Functions. Each of these elements is explained and, taken together, represent the issues and goals MCPC aims to achieve in short-, medium-, and long-term time frames. The Focus Topics—Better Built Environment, Climate Change Resiliency/Sustainability, Effective Growth, Housing Attainability, Trail Network, Transportation Evolution, and Planning Technology Expansion and Tools—relate to the three main planning themes within the county's comprehensive plan: Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and Vibrant Economy. The program also focuses on individual section achievements and initiatives.



providing thoughtfully designed, walkable, mixed-use developments that can support increased transit ridership and efficient use of land. The publication provides examples of various TOD scenarios and examples and model ordinance language to help municipalities plan for TOD, as well as a framework for how communities can encourage development designed to take advantage of transit access. The publication, which was highlighted at a Planning Smarter event ([video available](#)), corresponds to the Connected Communities and Vibrant Economy themes contained in [Montco 2040: A Shared Vision](#). A [new web experience](#) was developed to offer the public an easy-to-use digital platform for exploring the publication.

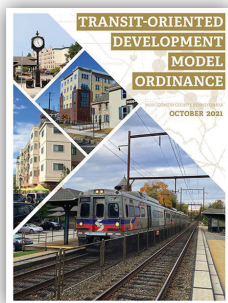
NEW ONLINE TOOL! Explore Climate Change Effects, Risk Factors, & Potential Vulnerability in Montco Communities

MCPC has developed a [new web experience](#) that offers the public an opportunity to explore climate change and its effects in Montco and to learn about risk factors in communities and potentially vulnerable areas in the county. This comprehensive online analysis application, which combines readily accessible information on sociodemographic, health factors, and critical infrastructure locales with historical temperature and flooding data, offers in-depth exploration on climate change impacts and provides opportunities to implement sustainability priorities on a more local scale (neighborhood or municipal level).



TOD Model Ordinance: A Way to Transform Your Community

MCPC's new [transit-oriented development \(TOD\) model ordinance and guidebook](#) provides an engaging look at how every one of the 43 Regional Rail and 6 Norristown High Speed Line station areas in communities throughout the county can be transformed by considering the concept of transit-oriented development. These station areas, all providing convenient access to Center City Philadelphia for both daily commuters and occasional riders, can be re-envisioned to enhance a community by



Register for a 2022 Planning Course!

MCPC is sponsoring four [planning courses](#) in 2022.

The courses were developed by the [Pennsylvania Planning Association](#) (PPA) and

[Penn State Extension Service](#) through their training agency, the [Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute](#) (PMPEI), and are taught by certified PMPEI instructors. Each course is taught in three sessions. Courses are limited to 25 persons, and preregistration is required. The registration fee is \$110 per person. Municipal officials and staff from municipalities with a current planning assistance contract with MCPC are eligible for a discounted rate of \$90 ([click here](#) to view eligible municipalities). Continuing education credits are available. [Click here](#) for credit information and fees, which are in addition to the registration fee. Payment for the credits is handled by the PMPEI, and all questions about credits should be directed to [Terri Dickow](#).

April 5, 12, 26, 2022* | 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Upper Merion Township Building

[The Course in Community Planning](#)

REGISTER TODAY!

May 9, 16, 23, 2022 | 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Upper Dublin Public Library

[The Course in Zoning Administration](#)

REGISTER TODAY!

September 8, 22, 29 2022* | 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Lansdale Borough Hall

[The Course in Zoning](#)

REGISTER TODAY!

October 13, 20, 27 2022 | 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Towamencin Township building

[The Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review](#)

REGISTER TODAY!

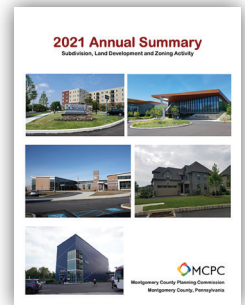
**Note: Course dates are not consecutive.*

PLANNING SMARTER MONTCO 2022

New Publications

2021 Annual Summary of Subdivision, Land Development, and Zoning Activity

The [2021 Annual Summary of Subdivision, Land Development, and Zoning Activity](#) shows that MCPC received 473 submissions for subdivision, land development, and zoning ordinance and map amendments—an increase of 17.4 percent compared to 2020. The information and statistics in the report reflect proposal plans only; not actual construction activity. The 2021 submissions included 188 new proposals for land developments or subdivisions that had not been previously submitted with similar land use and density components. The report, which lists number of submissions by municipality, indicates that 2021 was a banner year for the proposal of new housing units (5,100 units) and nonresidential square feet (over 3.7 million square feet) within Montgomery County, considering the continued economic disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. This level of activity shows a resurgent market in the county. The report information is also available in a [new interactive web experience](#).



Montco 2040 Implementation Update

The [2022 Implementation Update](#) for the county's comprehensive plan, [Montco 2040: A Shared Vision](#), highlights the implementation activities that took place in 2021

and anticipated implementation activities in 2022. Since the adoption of the plan in 2015, MCPC, other county departments, and our regional partners have kept busy with implementation projects and activities to achieve the goals of this important plan. We continue to chart implementation progress annually while looking to the future as we start preparations for our next comprehensive planning process. With its themes of Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and a Vibrant Economy, implementation activities so far have ranged from major redevelopment projects to brand new plans and zoning ordinances.

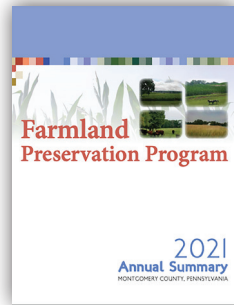


(Continued on next page)

Farmland Preservation Program 2021 Annual Summary

Since its beginning in 1990, over 10,100 acres (combined) have been permanently preserved on 178 farms in the county under the [Montgomery County Agricultural Land Preservation Program](#), which is commonly referred to as the farmland preservation program.

The [annual summary](#) contains a yearly review highlighting preservation efforts. Only one of the five farms from the 2020 applicant year was preserved in 2021; however, two farms were just preserved in late January 2022, and the county will be going to settlement on the remaining two farms before the spring. In addition, five applications from the 2021 round are being processed and are anticipated to close in 2022. The program, which involves voluntary sale of a property's development rights in perpetuity, is committed to preserving a permanent agricultural land base and maintaining an environment that supports a viable farm economy. The annual summary is also available as a new [interactive web experience](#).



2022 MCPC Staff Profiles

The [2022 MCPC Staff Profiles](#) publication highlights the education, experience, and skills that give our staff the ability to succeed and achieve. It also provides our agency organization chart and contact information for each staff member as well as an overview of primary responsibilities. Get to know the MCPC team!



Grant Opportunities

This regular feature of *Planning Perspectives* highlights some grant opportunities to help our municipalities and others with possible funding to achieve goals.

Deadline | March 18

Dr. Frank E. Boston Black Justice Fund

HealthSpark Foundation is now accepting grant applications to support positive storytelling, leadership development, and community building by and for Black communities in Montgomery County. Applications to the Dr. Frank E. Boston Black Justice Fund will be accepted now through March 18, 2022. The Dr. Frank E. Boston

Black Justice Fund addresses the historical exclusion of Black leaders and Black community-serving organizations from tackling the challenges and opportunities facing Montgomery County residents.

[More Information](#)

Deadline | March 22

AARP Community Challenge Grants

The AARP Community Challenge grant program is part of the nationwide AARP Livable Communities initiative to help communities become great places for residents of all ages. The program is intended to help communities make immediate improvements and jump-start long-term progress. The (very competitive) application period closes on Tuesday, March 22 at 5:00 p.m. [More Information](#)

Webinar: April 8 | Deadline: May 13

PA WalkWorks

PA WalkWorks has announced its sixth round of assistance to advance policy development related to active transportation. Grants will be offered to a limited number of municipalities and other governmental bodies to assist with the development of Active Transportation Plans, Complete Streets Policies, and/or Vision Zero Policies. These plans and policies are essential to establishing activity-friendly routes that connect people to everyday destinations, thereby expanding opportunities for physical activity. Several Montgomery County municipalities, as well as MCPC, have received funds for their work. An informational webinar is scheduled for April 8, and applications are due on May 13, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. [More Information](#)

Deadline | April 27

Transportation & Community Development Initiative (TCDI)

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's (DVRPC) TCDI program supports smart growth initiatives that implement the region's long-range plan, Connections 2050, and enhance the multimodal transportation network. The program is available to municipal and county governments, transit agencies, and Transportation Management Associations located in DVRPC's five Pennsylvania counties. This is one of the few local funding sources for planning work, as opposed to construction. Up to \$1.2 million may be available. Of note: a local financial match is no longer required. DVRPC is soliciting applications through April 27, 2022. [More Information](#)

Staff News

MCPC's greatest asset is its exceptional staff. We are always excited to share news about promotions, awards, certifications, and other acknowledgements and to introduce new staff members.

Congratulations!

We are pleased to announce that Ellis Foley and Troy Woodyard both have earned well-deserved promotions. Ellis has been promoted to Senior Environmental Planner, and Troy has been promoted to Principal Graphic Designer II. We thank them for their excellent work and dedication to our commission and Montgomery County.



Ellis Foley
Senior
Environmental
Planner



Troy Woodyard
Principal Graphic
Designer II

Matthew Popek Wins APA PA Award

Congratulations to Matthew Popek, AICP, Assistant Transportation Section Manager, who received the "Award for a Leader – Emerging Planner" from the [Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association](#) (APA PA). The award recognizes Matt's advancement at MCPC from an entry-level planner to a management position in five years. It also focuses on his professional achievements, affiliations, and extensive community involvement.



Matthew Popek, AICP
Assistant Transportation
Section Manager

Two MCPC Planners Achieve AICP Certification

Congratulations to Danielle Baer, AICP and Dan Farina Jr., AICP, who are the most recent planners to join the growing list of staff members who have achieved AICP certification. The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is the American Planning Association's professional institute. This certification recognizes planners for their education, experience, knowledge, ethical practice, and commitment to the planning profession.



Danielle Baer, AICP
Community
Planner II



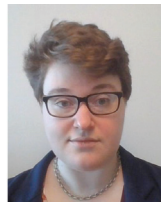
Dan Farina Jr., AICP
Senior County
Planner

MCPC Welcomes Two New Staff Members

We are pleased to announce that Naomi Crimm and Anne Nygard have joined our planning staff. Naomi, a Community Planner II, will be providing professional planning services to Collegeville Borough, West Norriton Township, Douglass Township, and West Pottsgrove Township. Prior to joining MCPC, Naomi worked as a planner for the City of Reading. She holds a master's degree in regional planning from Cornell University and a B.A. in environmental studies from Bates College. Anne has also joined our staff as a Community Planner II. She will be providing professional planning services to Cheltenham Township and Springfield Township. Anne has a Master of City and Regional Planning from Temple University and a B.S. degree in both physics and mathematics from Tulane University. Glad to have them on the MCPC team!



Naomi Crimm
Community
Planner II



Anne Nygard
Community
Planner II



Montgomery County Planning Commission

P.O. Box 311, Norristown, PA 19404-0311

www.montcopa.org/planning

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair

Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr., Vice Chair

Joseph C. Gale, Commissioner

Planning Commission Board Members

Steven Kline, AIA, Chair

Dulcie F. Flaharty, Vice Chair

Obed Arango

Robert E. Blue, Jr., P.E., P.L.S.

Jill Blumhardt

John J. Ernst, AIA, CBO

Nicole R. Kline-Elsier, P.E., PTOE

Jonathan E. Rinde, Esq.

Charles J. Tornetta